



awib review

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New Board Members Named

Governor Murkowski recently named three new members of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. **Rod Betit** replaces Laraine Derr as Director of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association and now serves on the AWIB as a private sector representative. **Rose Ellis**, Director of the Alaska Native Coalition on Employment & Training, serves as the Board's representative of a Native organization. **Neal Foster** is President of Bonanza Fuel in Nome, serves on the Sitnasuak Native Corporation Board of Directors, and fills a Business & Industry seat.

Transitions

Barbara Stallone, long-time AWIB member, recently resigned from both FedEx and the AWIB. She has been hired by the Municipality of Anchorage as director of Labor Relations. Barbara's business perspective, historical knowledge of workforce development, and many contributions will be greatly missed.

Governor Murkowski appointed **Laraine Derr** as his director of Boards and Commissions. Derr recently retired as president and CEO of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association. She served as a private sector representative for the AWIB and the loss of her enthusiasm and perspective will be noticed.

Workforce Development is Everyone's Business

The first round of reviewing proposals was completed on November 15th, with 11 of 22 proposals receiving funding recommendations.

The New Investment Strategy has integrated multiple funding streams to create a simpler, applicant friendly process for awarding workforce development grants. The application seeks proposals that focus on innovative projects

with clear links to economic development and employment. It is built around the industry priorities and training strategies identified by the AWIB. A quarterly review cycle will help to make funds available on a predictable basis. As a new process, it is evolving with feedback from the first and second round of reviews. Part of the goal is to help engage more employers in workforce development by making it easier to do business with the state. For more information, see: <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/bp/grants.htm>.

October Board Meeting

The Board held its fall meeting at The Commons on the UAA campus. Several members attended their first AWIB meeting, including Jim Laiti, Ginger Stock, Terry Miller, and Chris Hayes. Business activities included updates on several projects, including the Workforce Investment Clearinghouse project. John Pratt, staff designer, gave a web presentation of the prototype and explained what remains to be done before it's a functioning tool for policymakers, employers,



those seeking employment, incumbent workers and anyone seeking information on workforce training information.

The priority issues addressed in this board meeting were a review of program performance and work to update the strategic plan. Both of these are detailed further on page 2.

The Board also heard and discussed projects such as the development of a state Youth Council, regional advisory councils, a board ethic

policy, and the upcoming construction forum, slated for the end of January.

A “tiger team” of agency partners has been formed to develop a vision of what a highly effective Job Center/One-Stop could be. The committee will then recommend a policy based on this and develop the recertification process, as required by WIA. Other projects include a Youth Employability Skills certification process, the updating of Vocational Education Assessment report, and required federal and state reports.

A highlight of the board meeting was a presentation by a group of young people involved in a Job Corps/Nine Star Community Resource Mapping Project. While learning Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping skills, the students are conducting a survey of youth resources including places to go and things to do in the Anchorage and Palmer areas. Dr. Cherie Northon and Dr. Thom Eley, UAA professors, provided guidance and instruction.

Chris Miller, chief of DOLWD’s Research & Analysis Section, showed board members the breadth of information available to them and the public on R&A’s WebPages, and the Board considered how to use these sources to inform policy decisions.

An election of officers, scheduled for the October meeting, was postponed until the spring meeting because of several remaining vacancies, including two of the four Business & Industry slots. Only Business & Industry members may serve as officers.

AWIB Performance Review

As part of the new era of accountability, a performance review will be included in future AWIB meetings. At the October 24 Board meeting, Jeff Hoover and Kitty Farnham presented an initial description of the performance of WIA and STEP dollars, including the investments in the Alaska Job Center Network, grants, administrative costs, system building and individual training accounts. Ms. Farnham asked the board members to provide feedback about what level of detail they want so the performance review can be tailored for future presentations. Some members requested participant numbers and cost per participant, in addition to outcomes

in percentages. The PowerPoint slides will be posted on the AWIB WebPages.

Another tool that will prove valuable to the board is the “3-Foot Chart,” a graphic representation of a broad range of federal and state job training money, and the programs and outcomes they support. A draft chart was shared at the board meeting, but it is still awaiting some vital information from our partner departments for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Strategic Planning

On the afternoon prior to the fall business meeting, board members met to revisit the strategic plan. After many years and many legislative changes to the AWIB and its partner agencies, the board felt it was time to make significant changes. An initial draft was sketched out, including an update to AWIB’s mission and vision:

Vision

An opportunity for employment for all Alaskans.

- ✓Right Person
- ✓Right Skills
- ✓Right Job
- ✓Right Time

Mission

To provide leadership, set policy, direction and accountability standards to get Alaskans into jobs.

Committees will refine the end goals, targets, strategies and activities to allow the board to achieve its desired outcomes. Committee results will be reviewed at the January 12, 2004 Executive Committee meeting.

Vocational Technical Education Providers

The Vocational Technical Education Providers group (VTEP) met on October 30-31 in Anchorage. VTEP is working to develop a seamless system of career and technical education in the state, and, while an autonomous group, they also coordinate with the AWIB as an ad-hoc subcommittee under the Workforce Readiness Committee. They earlier selected three areas of focus for this year, 1) Tech Prep and dual credit, 2) implementation of nationally recognized industry skills standards, and 3) vocational education provider relationships. The three sub-groups worked in their areas at the

October meeting. To coordinate with the AWIB, two spokespersons were named for the group, Randy Hughey from Sitka and Janelle Vanesse from Bethel. Colleen Ward is the AWIB liaison to the VTEP group. In addition to the work in the three areas, the group discussed funding and direction for career and technical education in the state and plans to develop an integrated funding proposal.

“Who’s Investing Capital in Alaska?”

Jeff Staser, board member of Commonwealth North and Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission, recently penned a Compass opinion piece for the Anchorage Daily News. In it he gives a nod to the AWIB and Chair Alice Galvin. You can read it at:

<http://www.adn.com/opinion/story/4385985p-4396425c.html>.

AWIB Marketing



Chris Allridge, AWIB's new communications assistant, mans the board information kiosk for the AWIB and the DBP at the Alaska Federation of Natives' job fair.

Focus on Partners: Health Occupations at the Alaska Job Corps Center **By Sean Shubert, JCC**

The Alaska Job Corps Center is a residential training facility in Palmer for youth ages 16 to 24. Students are provided transportation, lodging, meals, recreational activities, vocational and academic training, and job placement assistance, all at no cost to the participants.

Among the eleven vocational trades offered on campus is Health Occupations, providing students the opportunity to train to be a Personal Care Attendant, a Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental Assistant and Medical Assistant through off-campus partners; EKG Technician; and a Phlebotomy Technician program will soon be

added. Experienced industry professionals conduct the training.

While foundation subjects such as medical terminology are taught in the classroom, a large part of the training is actually conducted at work sites. This work-place learning style of instruction allows students to see real world applications of the skills they have learned on campus.

Employers such as Providence Health Systems, Valley Hospital, Anchorage and Palmer Pioneer Homes and many private doctors' and dentists' offices have agreed to be partners, allowing students to refine their vocational skills in work settings. In turn, these businesses enjoy having a steady pool of qualified candidates for entry-level positions. The added benefit for the employers is that the students coming to them for training and employment will be drug-, alcohol-, and violence-free, having been living in Job Corps' Zero Tolerance environment.

Students move at their own pace throughout training, so that someone who is very motivated and is especially adept at a given skill is able to train in more than one of the aforementioned disciplines. For instance, Jennifer Beans, a current student, has excelled at Job Corps. She first completed the Personal Care Attendant training, then moved on to the Certified Nursing Assistant training, and has just completed her Certified Medical Assistant training through Job Corps' training partner Career Academy. She already has a job at the Southcentral Foundation Family Medicine Clinic using her skills as a nationally Certified Medical Assistant and is ready to assume her active role in the workforce.

The Alaska Job Corps Center is an excellent training option for youth and a resource for employers. To learn more about Job Corps' opportunities call (800) 478-0531 or visit our website at www.alaskajobcorps.com.

Focus on People & Industries

If Dutch Harbor and Unalaska's economy could be summed up in a single word, it would have to be "seafood". From catchers to processors, most people in Dutch derive their income from the sea. For more than ten years, Unalaska and its International Port of Dutch Harbor have consistently ranked No. 1 in the nation in terms of

the number of pounds of seafood caught and delivered. During the peak seasons, Dutch Harbor's major seafood plants employ more than 2,500 workers, ranking them as the city's largest employers. Thousands more are employed as crews and processors on vessels from 70-foot catchers to 300-foot trawlers and 600-foot mother ship processors. Seafood that you will find in Dutch include King Crab and Opilio Crab, (better known as Snow Crab), Hair Crab, Pollock, Pacific Cod, Black Cod, Rock Sole, Yellow Fin Sole, and Halibut. It's biggest Opilio Crab season begins in mid-January.

After high school graduation, Robert Hartsock moved to Kodiak to work as a seafood processor.



In 1995 he moved with his sister to Anchorage. In 1996, he started working as a seafood processor at Alyeska Seafood in Dutch Harbor. After a few years in Dutch, he started working as a driver for North Pacific Fuel. Early this year he started his new career as a police officer. He speaks fluent

"Tagalog", (Filipino language) which makes his job as police officer easier, since the majority of the workers in Dutch Harbor are Filipino.

Mark Your Calendar

- ✓ **Policy & Planning Committee** Mtg., Friday, December 5, 10-11:30 a.m.
- ✓ **Executive Committee**, Tuesday, December 9, 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- ✓ **Employment & Placement Com.**, Wed., December 17, 12:00 p.m.
- ✓ **Assessment & Evaluation Com.**, Wed., December 17, 12 p.m.
- ✓ **Construction Industry Forum**, Friday, Jan. 30, 2004 - Anchorage
- ✓ **AWIB Business Meeting**, Wednesday, April 7, 2004 - Juneau
- ✓ **AWIB Business Meeting**, Thursday, August 12, 2004 - Fairbanks
- ✓ **AWIB Business Meeting**, Wednesday, November 17, 2004 - Anchorage

All committee meetings are by teleconference, unless otherwise noted.

Don't miss these sites....

- AWIB
<http://labor.state.ak.us/awib/>
- Alaska Dept. of Labor Research & Analysis Section Workforce Info
<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>
- Alaska Federation of Natives
<http://www.nativefederation.org/flash.html>
- AGC of Alaska
<http://ak.agc.org/>
- Alaska Job Bank
<http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/akjb/>
- Alaska Job Center Network
<http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/>
- Alaska Process Industry Consortium
<http://www.apicc.org/>
- Alaska's People
<http://www.alaskaspeople.com/>
- Alaska Works Partnership
<http://www.alaskaworks.org/>
- Commonwealth North
<http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/>
- Denali Commission Website:
<http://www.denali.gov/index.cfm>
- HiTech Alaska
<http://www.hitechalaska.com/>
- "Keeping American in Business"
www.americanassembly.org
- National Assoc. of Workforce Board Chairs
<http://www.subnet.nga.org/workforcecouncilchairs/>
- National Governor's Association's WI site
http://www.nga.org/center/topics/1,1188,D_409,00.html
- November Trends (Focus on Construction)
<http://labor.state.ak.us/trends/nov03.pdf>
- USDOL Workforce Community
<http://www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/>
- Workforce Excellence Network
<http://www.workforce-excellence.net/>